

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 120280

O R 010900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1705

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SP, MO

SUBJ: SPANISH REACTION TO HASSAN'S THREATS

1. KING HASSAN'S STATEMENTS TO FRENCH RTV HAVE RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA PLAY HERE AND NOT SURPRISINGLY ARE SEEN IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES AS OMINOUS AND CLEARLY THREATENING. AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER ARIAS NAVARRO COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT HASSAN SPEECH VIEWED IN PRESIDENCY AND IN SENIOR MILITARY CIRCLES AS ANOTHER CONFIRMATION OF MOROCCO'S INNATE AGGRESSIVENESS ON SAHARA, BUT HE ADDED THAT SUCH THREATS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON SPAIN'S INTENTION TO ADHERE TO UN RESOLUTIONS AND TO CONDUCT REFERENDUM AS PLANNED FOLLOWING ICJ'S JUDGMENT.

2. UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROVIRA EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERED KING'S HOSTILE STATEMENTS. ROVIRA MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT UN COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO SAHARA FROM MADRID ABOUT MAY 12.

3. FOLLOWING KING'S STATEMENTS, MINISTRY OF ARMY OFFICIAL, SPEAKING FOR MINISTER, ASKED DEFENSE ATTACHE TO CONVEY TO AMBASSADOR MINISTER'S CONTINUING CONCERN THAT MOROCCO'S AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS MAY BE SUPPORTED AT LEAST INDIRECTLY BY US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN MOROCCO. THE OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT, ACCORDING TO SPANISH SOURCES, MOROCCAN AND MOROCCAN-BASED SAHARAN IRREGULARS ARE BEING TRAINED IN
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INFILTRATION AND INSURGENCY TACTICS BY MOROCCAN REGULAR

UNITS WHICH WERE TRAINED IN TURN BY US MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SPANISH MAY OVERSTATE THEIR ALARM IN CONTACTS WITH U.S. FOR TACTICAL REASONS, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MUCH OF IT IS GENUINE. IN LIGHT OF KING'S STATEMENT, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE TIMELY TO REMIND HASSAN AT THIS POINT OF HIS PLEDGE THAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY U.S. WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF U.S. SUCH A REMINDER WOULD AT LEAST ALLOW US TO RESPOND TO SPANISH BY TELLING THEM THAT HASSAN'S PLEDGE OF PROPER USE OF US ARMAMENTS REMAINS IN EFFECT.

STABLER

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